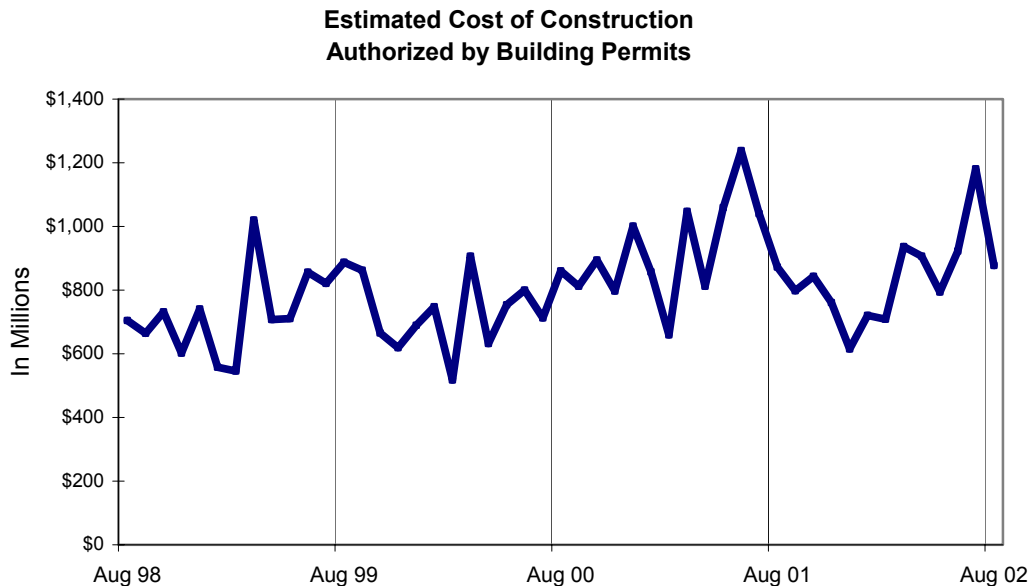


August 2002 Highlights

The construction industry had a solid month in August. The amount of work authorized by building permits was \$877.4 million. Residential activity totaled \$452.4 million (51.6 percent). Commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential uses accounted for \$425 million (48.4 percent); 493 municipalities reported. Compared to last month, which was among the highest monthly totals since the Department of Community Affairs has published construction data, the estimated cost of work authorized by permits in August declined by nearly 26 percent; but compared to August 2001, the amount of activity reported was about the same.



Top Municipalities

Montgomery Township had the most work in August. The estimated construction cost authorized by permits in the suburban Somerset County municipality was \$40.8 million. A new high school accounted for most of this activity, \$35.2 million. A new middle school accounted for most of the work in Mansfield Township, Burlington County. Mansfield reported \$22.9 million of construction for the month, second among localities; \$20.2 million was for the new school. The City of Newark (Essex County) and Jersey City (Hudson County) ranked third and fourth. New houses accounted for most of the work in Newark. The City had 134 authorized dwellings in August, top among localities. Between January and August, Newark has issued permits for 789 new houses, more than any other locality. Jersey City and the City of Hoboken, both in Hudson County, have issued building permits, authorizing 675 and 545 new dwellings, ranking second and third among municipalities between January and August 2002.

Other municipalities with a lot of activity in August are Hamilton Township (Mercer County), Englewood Cliffs Borough (Bergen County), and Woodbridge Township (Middlesex County). In Hamilton, \$11.4 million of the \$18.5 million authorized in August was for an alteration to an existing office building. In Englewood Cliffs, \$15 million of the \$16.8 million reported was for a tenant fit-up for a new office building for a television broadcasting network. Woodbridge had several large projects break ground in August. The largest was a \$7.3-million, three-story adult community complex that will have 32 dwelling units.

New Houses

A total of 2,314 new houses were authorized for construction in August. This was 7.4 percent below last month and 12.9 percent less than the 2,657 units authorized in August 2001.

Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits

